

HOUSE BILL 445

By Gant

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 7, Part 12, relative to the Labor Education
Alignment Program (LEAP).

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-7-1205, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(a) As used in this part, “work-based learning” or “WBL” means a credit-bearing experience in a secondary or postsecondary curriculum which:

- (1) Includes, but is not limited to, job shadowing, internships, clinicals, practicums, apprenticeships, co-ops, and industry-led service learning projects;
- (2) Is incorporated into coursework or related to a specific field of study;
- (3) Integrates knowledge and theory learned in the classroom with the practical application and development of technical skills and proficiencies in a professional work setting; and
- (4) May or may not include wages, salary, or other compensation to the student.

(b) The board of regents, in consultation with the higher education commission, shall coordinate curriculum development by the faculty and related resource materials to assist educators, employers, and students with workplace training and placement. The curriculum, work-based learning experiences, and materials shall, at a minimum, meet the necessary skill standards of high-skill and high-technology industries in this state. The curriculum and materials shall define courses and work-based learning experiences that are necessary for each technical career field that may lead to a postsecondary

credential. The curriculum shall be developed by faculty who teach within the field and shall outline the academic and technical courses that are necessary for each postsecondary award, credential, or degree to be awarded under this part.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7, Part 12, is amended by adding the following as a new section to be appropriately designated:

An employer who accepts a student in a college of applied technology or a community college to participate in work-based learning under this part shall not be liable for actions relating to that student unless the employer acted willfully or with gross negligence.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.